

REMARKS

Claims 53-96 are pending in the present application.

Claims 1-52 are cancelled without prejudice.

New claims 53-96 have been added. Support for these amendments can be found in the specification, for example, at Figure 10, page 10, lines 23-35, in the claims as filed, and/or in the references incorporated into the specification (See page 10, lines 1-22).

It is believed these changes do not involve any introduction of new matter. Consequently, entry of these changes is believed to be in order and is respectfully requested.

Telephonic Interview

The Applicants' representative would like to thank the Examiner for the telephonic interview on January 21, 2009. It is believed that an agreement was reached with regard to the § 112, first paragraph rejection and with regard to the 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) rejections.

Rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph

Claims 12-42 and 44-52 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph, for failing to comply with the written description requirement. Specifically, the Office asserts that the claimed recess is not described in the specification. Applicants have cancelled the claims in question thereby rendering the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph moot.

Rejection Under 35 USC §103(a) Over Mei in view of Psiharis in view of Volpenhein
and in view of Noe et al.

Claims 12-52 have been rejected under 35 USC § 103(a) as unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,617,603 issued to Mei, hereafter, "Mei", in view of U.S. Patent No. 2,253,210 issued to N. Psiharis, hereafter, "Psiharis", in view of WO 98/18364 filed on behalf of Volpenhein, hereafter, "Volpenhein" and in further view of U.S. Patent No.

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6,119,296 issued to Noe et al., hereafter, "Noe". Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection by the Office.

First, Applicants have cancelled the rejected claims. Second, as discussed during the telephonic interview, Noe fails to teach or suggest a "bottom face having an opening therein" or a "rear face having an opening therein", as recited, in part, in claims 53 and 74, respectively. As such, the suggested combination of references fails to teach or suggest all of the claim elements of claims 53 and 74. As such, Applicants assert that claims 53-74 are similarly patentable over the suggested combination of references.

Double Patenting

The Office has rejected claims 44, 46-48 as being unpatentable over claims 1, 4, 7-10 of copending Application No. 11/893470. Applicants respectfully request that the double patenting rejection be held in abeyance until subject matter has been indicated as allowable in either of the applications.


Conclusion

This response represents an earnest effort to place the present application in proper form and to distinguish the invention as claimed from the applied references. In view of the foregoing, entry of the amendments presented herein, reconsideration of this application, and allowance of the pending claims are respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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